



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZJ-CG

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AND FORT IRWIN
FORT IRWIN, CALIFORNIA 92310

Helms

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Travel Policy for Mexico

1. References:

- a. USARNORTH Force Protection Directive 11-002 (Mexico)
- b. Department of State Travel Alert 10 SEP 10, subject: Travel to Mexico
- c. HQ USNORTHCOM Force Protection Directive 11-059 (Mexico Travel – San Louis Potosi)

2. The narcotics-related violence in Mexico continues to take a heavy toll on not only municipal and state police forces, but has now targeted U.S Officials in and around the border area. The ability of local authorities to respond to or control street crime has deteriorated due to the increasingly indiscriminate violence. This has resulted in an increase in murders, armed robberies, carjackings, car theft, bank robberies and other crimes in Mexico. These reported conditions continue to present an unacceptable risk to the health, safety, welfare and morale of DOD personnel and their Families.

3. Based on increasing violence reported by the Department of State, Consulate General of the United States of America and recommendations by the Commanders of USNORTHCOM and USANORTH, the following measures are effective immediately:

- a. All travel to Mexico for service members (military) assigned to Fort Irwin is forbidden until further notice. The only exception to this policy is in case of emergency involving immediate family (i.e. father, mother, brother or sister). Delegation of authority for exceptions to this policy is with the first O6/COL in the chain of command.
- b. In the event that exception to this policy is granted, the following conditions will be met:
 1. Service member are not authorized to travel to the states or cities of: State of Chihuahua; State of Sinaloa; State of Durango; State of Coahuila; State of Michoacán; State of Nuevo Leon; State of Tamaulipas; State of San Luis Potosi; City of Tijuana; City of Nogales; State of Guerrero; State of Colima; State of Jalisco; State of Nayarit.

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2. Travel in to and out of Mexico will be by air only. Privately owned vehicles (POV) (including motorcycles) into and throughout Mexico's border area is prohibited.
 3. Service members will have a valid passport or passport ID card and register with the local U.S. Consulate or Embassy within 24 hours of arrival in Mexico.
 4. Service members may use public conveyances for travel (includes rental cars and buses) between the airport and around their final destination.
4. I strongly urge Family members, DoD Civilians, contractors and all other members of the Fort Irwin community not to travel to or through these areas for their own safety and security.
5. Brigade-level Commanders may approve emergency travel on a case-by-case basis for immediate family emergency situations or critical mission requirements. Military personnel must have a valid DA Form 31, which specifically authorizes travel in Mexico, signed by the first O-6 in the Soldier's chain of command. All approved leave must be reported to the Senior Commander NLT 15 days before travel begins. Brigade Commanders will not delegate this approval authority. In these special circumstances, Commanders will take the following measures:
- a. Complete a thorough risk assessment of the situation in Mexico (www.travel.state.gov).
 - b. Ensure the Service member has current level I Antiterrorism Awareness Training (<https://atlevel1.dite.mil/at/>) within 90 days of requested travel.
 - c. Ensure Soldier has received appropriate threat/area briefings from a qualified Antiterrorism Officer within 30 days of requested travel. If your organization does not have a qualified Antiterrorism Officer, contact DPTMS for assistance at 380-7611.
 - d. Ensure Soldier has possession of an emergency contact sheet (chain of command, embassy/consulate).
6. The Commander, USNORTHCOM has set the FPCON as BRAVO for Mexico. To enhance the safety and security of DoD personnel, the following security measures, found in USARNORTH OPOD 05-01 B dated 8 Jan 08, are in effect.
- a. Traveler BRAVO 1: If practical, follow the "buddy rule" for all movement.
 - b. Traveler BRAVO 2: Periodically exercise Antiterrorism contingency plans and drills.

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- c. Traveler BRAVO 3: Routinely check your vehicle(s) for improvised explosive devices (IEDs) or tampering.
 - d. Traveler BRAVO 4: If practical, park your vehicle(s) in secure areas, not accessible to uncontrolled personnel.
 - e. Traveler BRAVO 5: Vary routines.
 - f. Traveler BRAVO 6: Conduct weekly telephone liaison with nearest military installation, nearest U.S. security agency/element, and or local security elements and home station.
 - g. Traveler BRAVO 7: Determine and avoid high-risk areas and be cautious of mingling with crowds.
7. I will periodically re-evaluate these restrictions based on updated assessments by the installation's Antiterrorism/Force Protection Officer. Please note that effective 1 Jun 09 all U.S. citizens, including Soldiers, must have a passport, passport ID card, or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security to re-enter the United States. For additional information, refer to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs web site found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/-cbpmc_2223.html.
8. Service members will follow the requirements of AR 600-8-10 and AR 525-13 accordingly.
9. To register up on arrival or for any emergencies involving U.S. citizens in Mexico, please contact the closest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The U.S. Embassy is located in Mexico City at Paseo del la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, telephone from the United States: 011-52-55-5080-2000; telephone within Mexico City: 5080-2000; telephone long distance within Mexico: 01-55-5050-2000. You may also contact the Embassy by e-mail at: ccs@usembassy.net.mx. The Embassy's internet address is <http://www.usembassy-mexico.gov/>.
- a. Consulates:
 - 1. Ciudad Juarez: Paseo de la Victoria 3650, telephone (52) (656) 227-3000.
 - 2. Guadalajara: Progreso 175, telephone (52) (333) 268-2100.
 - 3. Hermosillo: Avenida Monterrey 141, telephone (52) (662) 289-3500.
 - 4. Matamoros: Avenida Primera 2002, telephone (52) (868) 812-4402.
 - 5. Merida: Calle 60 no. 338 k, telephone (52) (999) 942-5700.
 - 6. Monterrey: Avenida Constitucion 411 Poniente, telephone (52) (818) 047-3100.
 - 7. Nogales: Calle San Jose, Nogales, Sonora, telephone (52) (867) 714-0512.

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8. Nuevo Laredo: Calle Allenda 3330, col. Jardin, telephone (52) (867) 714-0512.

9. Tijuana: Tapachula 96, telephone (52) (664) 622-7400. During non-work hours, an American official may be reached at: 011-619-692-2154 (from Mexico) or 619-692-2154 (from the U.S.)

b. Consular Agencies: Information on the Consular Agencies can be found on the U.S. State Department Travel website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html.


10. Entering Mexico with a firearm, any type of knife or even a single round of ammunition is illegal. Even if the weapon or ammunition is taken into Mexico unintentionally, the Mexican government strictly enforces its laws restricting the entry of firearms and ammunition along all land borders and at airports and seaports. Violations have resulted in arrests, convictions, and long prison sentences for U.S. citizens.

11. Military personnel who violate or fail to obey this policy will be subject to administrative or disciplinary actions under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice. Purchasing travel (i.e. flights, cruises or other means of travel) prior to exception to policy being granted is not justification for exception to policy and the service member will bear all costs incurred. Service member will comply with all leave requesting administrative procedures before purchasing travel.

12. This letter supersedes memorandum, AFZJ-CG, Travel to Mexico, 1 Jun 09.

13. Place this memorandum on unit bulletin boards and give it the widest dissemination.

14. Proponent for this policy is the Secretary of the General Staff at: (760) 380-3611.


TERRY FERRELL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding